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EDITORIALS.

IT has been announced that the Board of Directors of the Geological Survey of Missouri have decided to publish only three more reports, viz.: those on paleontology, on clays, and on lead and zinc; and "to abandon other work on reports on hand, whether nearly completed or not," as well as to discontinue the survey after June 1, 1894.

We hope that this report is entirely erroneous. If it is true, however, those who have followed the history of the Geological Survey of Missouri will hear the news with deep regret. The first appropriation for the present survey was made by the legislature in 1889, and in the fall of that year Mr. Arthur Winslow was appointed State Geologist. Since that time the work of the survey has been rapidly and intelligently developed, and a number of valuable reports have been issued. Though these reports contain a great amount of information, there is vastly more yet which should, and would, if unhindered, appear in later volumes. In the work of a state geological survey the different subjects discussed are not worked up entirely independently of each other, but in the collection of data in the field on one subject, the geologist collects incidentally many facts relating to other subjects which he expects to treat of at a subsequent time. As a result of this, the amount of information on all points of scientific or economic importance is steadily increasing in the office of the state geological survey; and every report that is published means not only that the subject to which it relates has been thoroughly investigated, but also that many facts relating to other matters of general interest have been collected, and will, at some future time, be supplemented by additional facts and form the basis of other reports.

When a survey has completed its work on most subjects and has but little left to publish, its discontinuance, though it may be premature, is not so injurious as when a survey like that of Missouri, which has just reached maturity, and is in its most active and useful stage, is suddenly discontinued. Great quantities of unpublished information relating to many different subjects and in various degrees of preparation are absolutely lost to the state, for much of such information is necessarily too incomplete to be published without further field work. It has been collected, however, at very considerable expense, and much of it, with a little more time, would be ready to be published and would become of lasting benefit to the state.

By the premature abolishment of a survey, therefore, the state loses not only the money actually invested in these unfinished reports, but it loses the reports themselves, which are on subjects in which almost every citizen in the state is either directly or indirectly interested. More than this, in dispensing with a state geologist and his staff, who for years have been actively and intelligently fulfilling the functions of their offices, the state also loses the benefit of the vast amount of general experience in the region that they have acquired during their investigations. If the survey is ever reorganized, the new officials must not only acquire the same experience over again, at the expense of the state, but they must also collect again the facts lost on the discontinuance of the preceding survey.

The history of many states shows that several times they have organized surveys and then abolished them before the work was completed, or even fairly started; and that perhaps years later they have organized new surveys. In some cases this procedure has been repeated so many times that the advantages gained have cost the state immensely more than they would have done if the first survey had been continued to completion. Missouri itself has had several such experiences, and the friends of the state had hoped, when the present survey was inaugurated, that it would be continued until all its great geological and mining resources had been fully investigated.

In a number of cases, in times of financial depression, state legislatures have been obliged to curtail their expenditures; and though, as has been shown, it is very unwise to decrease the requisite appropriation for a geological survey, yet if, under such circumstances, it is necessary to do so, the office of state geologist and its incumbent, if he is efficient, should nevertheless be retained, for he possesses facts on unfinished work and a general experience of the region which will mean many thousands of dollars to the state when the survey is reorganized.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the Board of Directors of the Missouri Survey will follow the wisest course. If the finances of the state require the reduction that has been made in the appropriation for the geological survey, let this be only temporary, and let the office of state geologist and its present representative be retained. Mr. Winslow has held this position since the present survey was inaugurated; he has managed the affairs of the survey in a most energetic and capable manner, and the volumes on coal, iron, mineral waters, and other subjects attest to the activity of himself and his staff. Much of this work he has accomplished in the face of the many difficulties that no one but those who have had personal connections with state geological surveys can appreciate; and yet his publications speak for themselves in their completeness and the thoroughly scientific methods with which he has treated the problems before him. He has already performed a great service to the people of Missouri and the public in general, and it is to be hoped that the Board of Directors will not permit the state to lose the man who is more necessary than any other to the successful completion of the geological survey. We recur to the hope expressed at the outset that the report of discontinuance is erroneous.

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The Boston meeting of the Geological Society of America was remarkable for the large number of papers submitted, fifty-nine, and for the unusual geological activity which these indicated. In an uncommon degree the papers represented recent active investigations. To only a slight extent were they rehearsals of old studies. Of the fifty-nine papers presented, eleven may be classified as petrological, twenty-two as structural and stratigraphical, four as physiographic, three as paleontological, eight as glacial, four as taxonomic, and the remainder as miscellaneous. On the whole, the papers showed wide diversity of interest and an admirable distribution of investigation. Notable interest was manifested in the petrological papers, particularly those relative to volcanic phenomena, and in the papers bearing on structural dynamics. The titles were as follows:

Some Recent Discussions in Geology. (Presidential address). Sir J. William Dawson.

Geological Notes on some of the Coasts and Islands of Behring Sea and its Vicinity. George M. Dawson.

Fossil Flora of Alaska. Frank H. Knowlton.

New Discoveries of Carboniferous Batrachians. Sir J. William Dawson.

Cenozoic Geology along the Apalachicola River. William H. Dall and Joseph Stanley-Brown.

Geological Activity of the Earth's Originally Absorbed Gases. Alfred C. Lane.

Certain Climatic Features of Maryland. William B. Clark.

Dual Nomenclature in Geologic Classification. H. S. Williams.

Johann David Schoepff, and his Contributions to North American Geology George Huntington Williams.

Relations of Synclines of Deposition to Ancient Shorelines. Bailey Willis.

An Account of An Expedition to the Bahamas. Alexander Agassiz.

Lacustrine Tertiary Formations of the West. William B. Scott.

Geology of the Coosa Valley in Georgia and Alabama. C. Willard Hayes.

Geological Structure of the Housatonic Valley lying east of Mt. Washington. William H. Hobbs.

The Hibernia Fold, New Jersey. J. E. Wolff.

Tertiary Dislocations of the Atlantic Coast of the United States. N. S. Shaler.

Relations of Mountains to Continents. N. S. Shaler.

Phenomena of Beach and Dune Sands. N. S. Shaler.

Eastern boundary of the Connecticut Triassic. W. M. Davis and L. S. Griswold.

Geographical Work for State Geological Surveys. W. M. Davis.

Facetted Pebbles on Cape Cod. W. M. Davis.

Paleozoic Intra-formational Conglomerates. Charles D. Walcott.

Paleozoic Overlaps in Montgomery and Pulaski Counties, Virginia. M. R. Campbell.

The Trias and Jura of the Western States. Alpheus Hyatt.

The Shasta-Chico Series of the Pacific Coast. J. S. Diller.

The Cretaceous Faunas of the Shasta-Chico Series. T. W. Stanton.

Geology of Indian Territory and Texas Adjacent to Red River. Robert T. Hill.

Notes on the Geology of Lower California. S. F. Emmons and G. P. Merrill.

Origin and Classification of the Green Sands of New Jersey. William B. Clark.

Crustal Adjustment in the Upper Mississippi Basin. Charles R. Keyes.

A Geological Study of Lake Mohonk and Lake Minnewaska, N. Y. William H. Niles.

Geologic Relations in the Belt from Green Pond, New Jersey, to Skunnemunk Mountain, New York. N. H. Darton.

A Prismatic Stadia Telescope. Robert H. Richards.

Ancient Volcanic Rocks along the Eastern Border of North America. George Huntington Williams.

Ancient Eruptive Rocks in the White Mountains. C. H. Hitchcock.

The Chemical Equivalence of Crystalline and Sedimentary Rocks. G. K. Gilbert.

Volcanite, an Anorthoclase Augite Rock chemically like the Dacites. William H. Hobbs.

Further Notes on the Occurrence of Albertite in New Brunswick, Canada. H. P. H. Brumell.

Alterations of Silicates in Gneiss at Worcester, Mass. Homer T. Fuller.

Pre-paleozoic Decay of Crystalline Rocks North of Lake Huron. Robert Bell.

Gabbros on the Western Shore of Lake Champlain. James F. Kemp.

Notes on the Occurrence of Mica in the Laurentian of the Ottawa District. Robert W. Ells.

Intrusive Sandstone Dikes in Granite. Whitman Cross.

Age of the Auriferous Slates of the Sierra Nevada. James P. Smith.

Origin of the Coarsely Crystalline Vein Granites, or Pegmatites. William O. Crosby.

A Classification of Economic Geological Deposits, based upon Origin and Original Structure. William O. Crosby.

Lake Cayuga a Rock Basin. R. S. Tarr.

Pleistocene Problems in Missouri. James E. Todd.

Remarks upon a supposed Glaciated Stone Axe from Indiana. G. Frederick Wright.

Pseudo-Cols. T. C. Chamberlin.

Certain Features of the Past Drainage Systems of the Upper Ohio Basin. T. C. Chamberlin and Frank Leverett.

Glacial History of Western Pennsylvania. G. Frederick Wright.

The Ancient Strait at Nipissing. F. B. Taylor.

Extramoraine Drift between the Delaware and the Schuylkill. Edward H. Williams.

Interglacial Series of Germany. Professor Dr. Alfred Teutzsch, Königsberg, Prussia.

The Madison Type of Drumlins. Warren Upham.

Diversity of the Glacial Drift along its Boundary. Warren Upham.

Notes on the Microscopic Structure of Siliceous Oölite. E. O. Hovey.

T. C. C.